RG104 E-1 Box 159

PROPRIETOR,
JOSEPH WHARTON,
Post Office Address,
BOX 1332, *PHILADELPHIA.*

AMERICAN NICKEL WORKS,

Camden, N. J., Oct 2 1865

Hon. D. M. Dox Supt. U. S. Mint

Dear Sir

You are aware that the public expect of the Mint prompt delivery of minor coins for which they send their money, and that much inconvenience is thrown if for any reason, no matter how good, the coins are not forthcoming when demanded You know also that the Mint is quite unable to produce the needful coin blanks while its resources are taxed to turn out silver and gold coins, and that the purchase of blanks fit for immediate stamping is therefore not only expedient but imperative

During your incumbency more minor coins have been issued from the Mint than ever before in equal time, and at lower cost This it is fair to say results in great measure from the arrangements I made for supplying blanks in combination with the Parish Mfg. Co, arrangements which were not made in a day, and which could not be duplicated even in the best equipped metal works without considerable delay and many chances of faulty work

Among the bids for supplying blanks which you opened yesterday there was one from me, but there was one from the Parish Mfg. Co which was lower

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Hon D M Dox (2)

PROPRIETOR,
JOSEPH WHARTON,
Post Office Address,
BOX 1332, PHILADELPHIA.

AMERICAN NICKEL WORKS,

Camden, N. J., Oct 2 1883

than any other except two from parties who have no apparent plant or appliances for making the plates which they offer to deliver Merchant & Co., and B & Crump & Son are not questioned in regard to personal or business respectability, but I presume that you will scrutinize their readiness to make an blanks before awarding a contract, for it is obvious that no general assertion of good faith and honest intention can stand in the place of the actual possession of the needful establishment and appliances

When the Government desires to contract for ships or steel forgings it requires the bidder to show that he possesses an adequate plant, and there is I think a general law that no contract shall be given for work except to persons who are engaged in the line of business Obviously a successful suit for damages on an unexecuted contract will not satisfy those citizens who may fail to receive minor coins I mean that the mint would not stand justified before the public for failure to perform one of the most important of its functions, by a plea that it had seen fit to award a contract for blanks to a party who had no means of making them but who hoped to procure such means and had given bonds to do so, while a per-

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Hon D M Rapp (3)

PROPRIETOR,
JOSEPH WHARTON,
Post Office Address,
BOX 1332, *PHILADELPHIA.*

AMERICAN NICKEL WORKS,

Camden, N. J., Oct. 2 1894

practically competent and satisfactory bidders who took part in many of similar engagements stand ready to deliver blanks at prices but little higher and apparently moderate enough

The time of greatest demand for minor coins is close upon us; it is also the time of greatest demand for all those classes of goods which occupy the mints and the attention of the very few mills which are able to make coin blanks

Nickel is steadily rising in price and growing scarcer; it is quite conceivable that a contractor to deliver nickel-copper blanks might find himself unable to procure nickel, even if he had the needful establishment

Since the opening of the bids I have conferred with my friends of the Lamb Co. and am prepared to say that we will either continue to supply blanks on the terms of my existing contract (under which it is apparently in order for me to extend the option given by it to the mint), or deliver blanks under the Lamb Co's bid of yesterday, or will make new bids in response to new call, provided the call is so worded as to exclude those who cannot prove their capacity to supply blanks of the requisite quality, in the requisite quantity, and as promptly as the needs of the mint require

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Hon D M Dox (N.Y.)

PROPRIETOR,
JOSEPH WHARTON,
Post Office Address,
BOX 1332, *PHILADELPHIA.*

AMERICAN NICKEL WORKS,

Camden, N. J., Oct 2 1879

But neither the Senate nor myself will offer to supply coin blanks in competition with parties who cannot thus prove their capacity

It is a matter of indifference to the Senate, or to me which of us should execute a contract if one should be awarded to either of us, and I may add that as my interest in the matter is merely that of an agent hired by a small percentage, I am prepared to drop out of the business altogether if that is preferable to the Mint

Pray pardon the length and freedom of this communication

Yours truly
Joseph Wharton

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 159

American Nickel Works,
Camden, N.J.,
October 2, 1889

Hon. D.M. Fox
Supt. U.S. Mint

Dear Sir

You are aware that the public expect of the Mint prompt delivery of minor coins for which they send their money, and that much impatience is shown if for any reason, no matter how good, the coins are not forthcoming when demanded you know also that the Mint is quite matter to produce the needful coin blanks while its resources are taxed to turn out silver and gold coins, and that the purchases of blanks fit for immediate stamping is therefore not only expedient but imperative.

During your incumbency more minor coins have been issued from the Mint than ever before in equal time, and at lower cost. This it is fair to say results in such matters from the arrangements I made for supplying blanks in combination with the Scoville Mfg. Co., arrangements which were not made in a day, and which could not be duplicated were in the best equipped metal banks without considerable delay and many delays of faulty work.

Answering the bids for supplying blanks which you opened yesterday there was none from me, but there was one from the Scoville Mfg. Co. which was lower than any other except two from parties who have no apparent plant or appliance for making the blanks which they offer to deliver. Merchant & Co., and B.K. Cramp & Co. are not questioned in regard to personal or business respectability, but I presume that you will scrutinize their readiness to make coin blanks before awarding a contract, for it is obvious that no general attention of good faith and honest intention can stand in the place of the actual possession of the required establishment and equipment.

When the Government desires to contract for ships or steel forgings it requires the bidder to show that he possesses an adequate plant, and thus is I think a general law that no contract shall be given for Govt. work except to persons who are engaged in the line of business. Obviously a successful bid for damages or an unexecuted contract will not satisfy those citizens who may fail to receive minor coins I mean that the Mint would not stand justified before the maker for failure to perform one of the most important of its functions, by a plea that it had seen fit to award a contract for blanks to a party who had no means of making them but who hoped to procure such means and had given funds to do so, while a perfectly competent and satisfactory bidder who had now failed in may similar engagements stood ready to deliver blanks at price but either little higher and apparently were not enough.

The time of greatest demand for minor coins is close upon us; it is also the time of greatest demand for all those claims of goods which occupy the works the attention of the rem. four mills which are able to make coin blanks.

Nickel is steadily rising in price and growing scarcer: it is quite undesirable that a contractor to deliver nickel-copper blanks might find himself unable to purchase nickel, even if he had the needful establishment.

Since the examining of the bids I have conferred with my friends of the Scoville Co. and are prepared to say that we will either continue to supply blanks on the terms of my existing contract (under which it is apparently in order for me to extend the option given by it to the Mint), or will deliver blanks under the Scoville Co's bid of yesterday, or will make new bids in response to our call, provided the call is so worded as to exclude those who cannot from prove this capacity to supply blanks of the requested quality, in the requested quantity, and as promptly as the men of the Mint require.

But written the Scoville Mfg. Co. nor myself will offer to supply coin blanks in competition with parties who cannot thus prove their capacity.

It is a matter of indifference to the Scoville Co. or to me while of us should execute a contract if we should be awarded to either of us, and I may add that as my interest in the matter is merely that of an agent paid by a small percentage, I am prepared to drop out of the business altogether if that is preferable to the Mint.

Pray pardon the length a freedom of this communication.

Yours Truly,
Joseph Wharton